Sub-Mariner Helps Heat Up February

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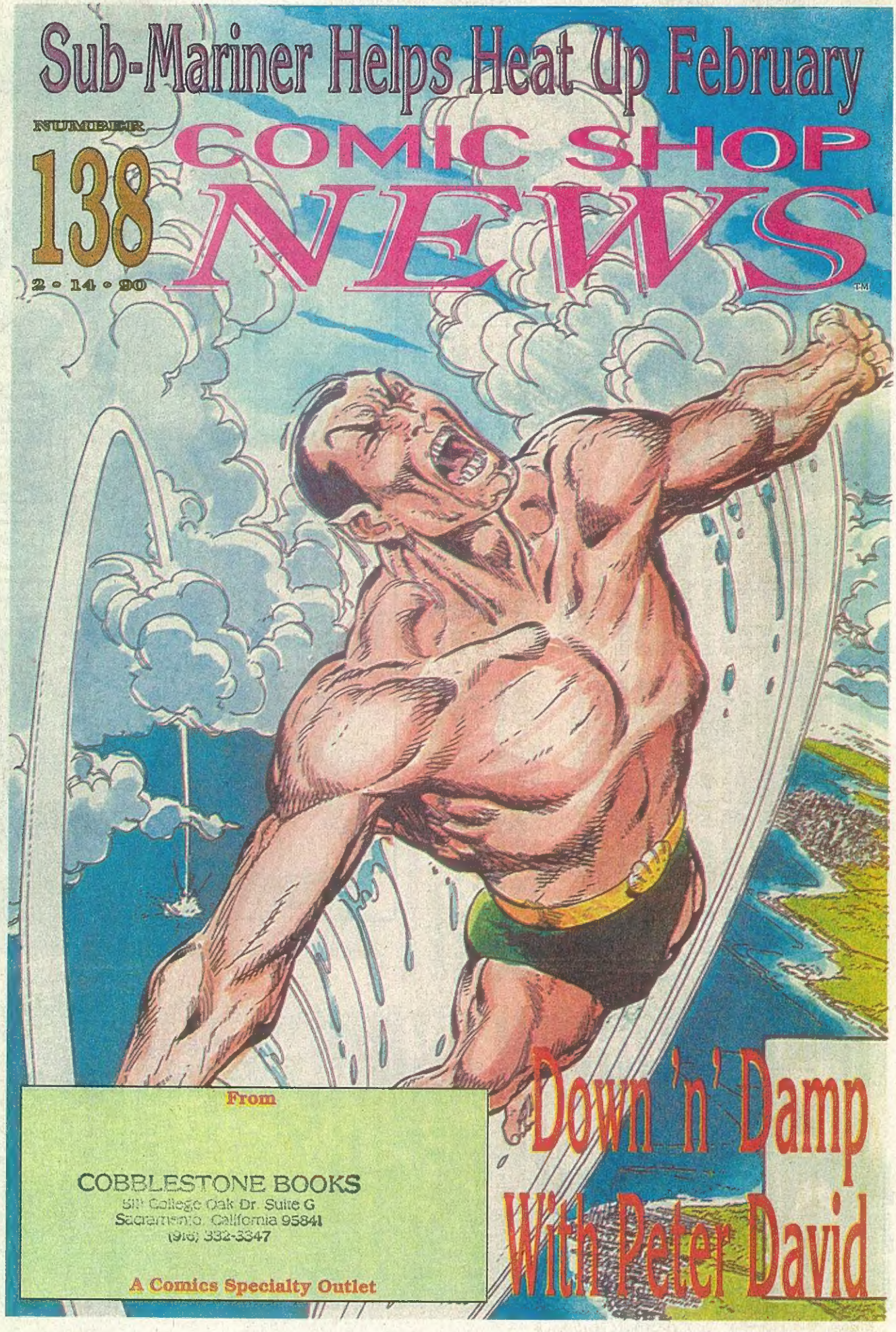
COMIC SHOP NEWS™



Down 'n' Damp With Peter David

From

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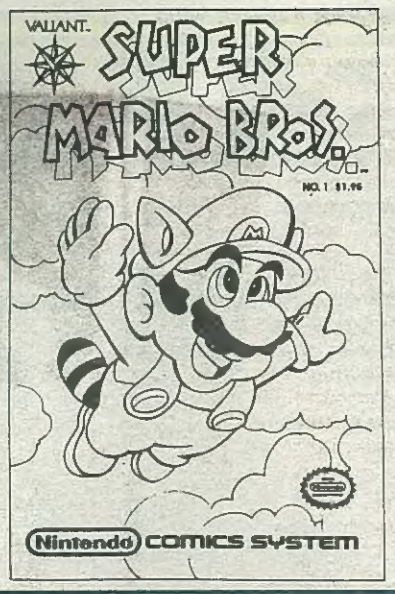
A Comics Specialty Outlet

Shooter Makes Valiant Return To Comics

When Valiant Comics debuts in April, there will be a familiar name in the editorial credits. Former Marvel Comics Editor in Chief Jim Shooter is one of the founders of the new Valiant Comics imprint, and he will be actively involved in developing Valiant as a new major player in the comics game.



Valiant Comics will offer two very different types of comic books: a series of titles inspired by (and licensed from) Nintendo Games, and a series of comics based on classic Gold Key/Western Comics series such as ***Magnus: Robot Fighter, Turok Son of Stone, Doctor Solar,*** and ***Space Family Robinson.***

Valiant will debut in April with three titles, all Nintendo-related. ***Super Mario Bros. Special Edition*** will be a 32-page full-color comic priced at $1.95. It will feature new material by Vallely & McClellan, Wildman, and Zorito, along with a cover by Kyle Baker. This special edition will feature stories based on the upcoming ***Super Mario Bros. 3*** game cartridge. This title will be available in comic shops only; its contents will not be reprinted in other Valiant Comics titles.

The same month that the ***Super Mario Bros. Special Edition*** is released, the first issue of the ongoing ***Super Mario Bros.*** title is also slated for release. It will be produced by the same team responsible for the ***Special Edition***; it will feature stories based on the *Super Mario Bros. 3* game cartridge as well as new stories starring Mario and Luigi, those stalwart plumbers from Brooklyn.

The final April title is ***Nintendo Comics System #1***, a new 96-page comics anthology featuring seven stories in each issue. The first issue will feature stories based on such games as *Link, Zelda, Punch Out, Super Mario Bros., and Captain N.* The series will begin bi-monthly publication in July. Kyle Baker will also supply the cover for this title.

Later in the year, Valiant plans to begin publishing the various former Gold Key titles. These titles will initially begin with reprints; original stories will follow later this year.

by ALEX KIRKLAND

NUMBER 138 2 • 14 • 90

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

From

A Comics Specialty Outlet

Marvel Heats Up February Line-Up

Who's Giving Sub-Mariner the Business?

Namor the Sub-Mariner, John Byrne's upcoming title redefining Sub-Mariner for the 1990's, is focusing on Sub-Mariner's role as a protector of the environment. In the new series, the Sub-Mariner will use the wealth of the oceans to fight anti-environmental pollution and exploitation. That doesn't mean that Byrne is abandoning the sort of superhero action that he's known for, though.

Namor the Sub-Mariner #2 brings the prince of the seas face to face against his first super-villain of this new series, the Griffin. This isn't just another super-slugfest, though; the only people who could have sent the Griffin against the Sub-Mariner are the corporate enemies who oppose his plans--because no one else knows he's alive! Check out the action on March 8th in a story written and pencilled by John Byrne and inked by Bob Wiacek.

Marvel Takes Pleasure In Presenting New Cenobite Horror

Clive Barker's Hellraiser #2, on sale March 6th, will feature five more glimpses into the perverse world of the Cenobites. The 64-page bookshelf-format comic will contain a McLaurin-Zaffino tale of a South American warden who must explain how a prisoner escaped--with only a Lament Configuration to aid him; a Smith-Hoffman story of a leper who decides that anything would be better than his disease; a McDuffie-Kevin O'Neill tale of a writer in Hell who must deal with the worst kind of editors imaginable; a Gneeck-Scott Hampton story of a computer specialist who uses his machines to test the limits of pain; and a story by Peter Atkins (screenwriter of ***Hellbound),*** Dave Dorman, and Lurene Haines in which a musician's notes compose a lullaby for Hell.

Clive Barker's Hellraiser #2, a 64-page bookshelf format comic priced at $4.95, will also contain pin-ups by Bill Sienkiewicz, Jon J Muth, and Mike Mignola; Simon Bisley is the cover artist.

She-Hulk Stands on Ceremony in February

She Hulk stars in a new two-issue bookshelf format limited series which serves to fill in the "in-between" period between the She-Hulk graphic novel and the beginning of her regular series. The book, by Wayne McDuffie, June Brigman and Stan Drake will explore just what happened to She-Hulk and Wyatt Wingfoot, the one-time love of her life. In this book, She-Hulk proposes to Wyatt -- and then, a bit later, learns the secret of her attraction to him. She also shaves her legs and manages to face-off against a powerful wizard who plans world domination. ***She-Hulk Ceremony 1*** will be 48 pages for $3.95 and ships in mid-February.

Blueberry Reaches the End of the Trail

The ongoing saga of ***Lt. Blueberry*** comes to an end in mid-March, when Marvel releases the fifth and final volume of the first Blueberry saga. End of the Trail takes Blueberry back to Mexico, where he is at the mercy of now-Governor Vigo; there's also another assassination attempt on President Grant. Will any of this interfere with Chihuahua Pearl's wedding plans? Find out in this 96-page finale by Jean-Michel Charlier and Moebius; End of the Trail will be priced at $5.95.

by CLIFF BIGGERS *&* WARD BATTY

NEWSBRIEFS

CSN BRIGHTENS LINE UP WITH DARK KNIGHT

Batman, the popular **William Messner-Loebs- Carmine Infantino** comic strip distributed by **Creators Syndicate,** has found a new home in the pages of ***Comic Shop News*** beginning with ***CSN #137***. Not only is ***Comic Shop News*** publishing the daily strips, a week at a time, the same week that they're slated to appear in newspapers, but ***CSN*** will also feature the Sunday ***Batman*** strips, *in full color,* on the back cover of each issue.

"While some fans have had a chance to see the daily strips," ***CSN*** editor Cliff Biggers said, "very few of them have seen the Sunday strips at all--and certainly not in color!"

"We're very excited that we can add ***Batman*** to the pages of ***Comic Shop News,***" ***CSN*** Publisher Ward Batty said. "While some readers have seen the strip in the pages of local newspapers or other small-distribution publications, the vast majority of ***CSN***s readers haven't had a chance to see the comic strip adventures of the most popular comic book hero of the past year. This means that more people than ever before are going to be asking for--no, make that *demanding*--their ***Comic Shop News*** each week. And that makes it an even more valuable promotional tool for savvy comics retailers and publishers!"

The first week's dailies began in ***Comic Shop News #137;*** and this week, the first Sunday color strip will be added to the ***CSN*** line-up. In order to get caught up on continuity and maintain a timely weekly schedule, two Sunday strips and a week's worth of dailies will appear this issue followed by two weeks of dailies and one Sunday in ***CSN #139.*** Beginning with ***CSN #140*** in late February, each issue will feature a full-color Sunday strip on the back cover and the subsequent week's worth of dailies o the interior of each issue. And the strip's chronology is arranged so readers should read the Sunday strip on the back cover before that weeks dailies on page 6.

"If any comic shops find themselves unable to meet the demand for ***Comic Shop News*** once Batman is added," Biggers said, "they can up their orders for future bundles through their distributors. Increases in distributor shipments can be phoned in at any time prior to the actual printing of each issue, and those reorders will be shipped to the warehouses along with the original order."

A MIRACULOUS CHANGE

Mister Miracle undergoes a change in its fifteenth issue--but it's a change that affects the book, not the character. **Doug Moench** takes over as writer with ***Mister Miracle #15.*** The storyline continues to chronicle the Mister Miracle interstellar tour with Manga Khan; back at home, Barda is becoming just a wee bit suspicious of the robot who replaced her husband. Check it all out on March 22nd.

MARVEL SETS THE PACE WITH HERO

A lot of literature ends with the death of the main character. Not ***Hero,*** though; this new limited series begins there...

Hero is the story of Cody Pace, a character that Marvel describes as "a regular, good-natured, materialistic, womanizing yuppie. He's got it all and he's in debt for it--but he lacks something--some spice, some adventure in his life...He's going to get it soon--but he's got to blow up first!"

That's right: ***Hero*** *begins* with the explosive death of Cody Pace. But when Cody dies on this earth, he finds himself quite alive on the strange magical world of Peregrine Magi. Peregrine Magi isn't a *bad* place, but it isn't home, so Cody Pace sets out to return to Earth. Unfortunately, there's only one way to get back here; he has to die. Over and over and over. Each time he dies heroically, he finds himself reborn in another dimension where he must once again become a hero and face death in a selfless, courageous manner.

Hero focuses on the unwilling heroism of Cody Pace, a man who is forced to become an archetype by circumstances he doesn't really understand. What he does understand, though, is the changes that his personality undergoes in this six-issue limited series; Cody Pace learns the value of loyalty and sacrifice--and he begins to understand what it is to be a hero.

Hero is written by **David Michelinie,** whose work on ***Spider-Man*** and ***Iron Man*** has established his reputation with current Marvel fans. He is joined by artists **Steve Purcell** and **Sam Delarosa.** Purcell makes his serious art debut on ***Hero;*** previously, his humorous work had been seen in ***Sam and Max, Freelance Police.***

Each issue of ***Hero*** is priced at $1.50; the book is set to premiere on March 22nd.

MORE VENGEANCE

Spider-Man got off pretty lightly in the Acts of Vengeance storyline; while everyone else was getting kicked around by a variety of villains, Spidey gained the Captain Universe powers and did some kicking around of his own.

In ***Web of Spider-Man #64,*** Spider-Man has to face the aftermath of his super-powered spree. The Captain Universe powers are gone--but the villains aren't! Goliath, Titania, Graviton, the Trapster, the Brothers Grimm and the Chameleon all decide to get in their licks now that Spidey's back to normal (and you thought the Sinister Six were tough!). As if this isn't enough to make Spidey's day pretty bad, he's even having problems as Peter Parker; the Daily Bugle has fired him for "faking" Spider-Man photos! **Gerry Conway, Alex Saviuk,** and **Keith Williams** deliver the play-by-play on March 8th.

BATMAN EYES NEW T-SHIRT

Graphitti's ever-growing line of Batman cover t-shirts adds a new tee in February. That's when Graphitti is bringing the cover from ***Detective Comics #31*** to the forefront of fan fashion. This classic pre-Robin cover features a large image of Batman looming over a misty mountain with a diabolical figure in the foreground. The full-color shirt, priced at $12.95, reproduces the cover exactly as it originally appeared.

VIZ ISN'T MUM ABOUT LUM

When Viz Comics makes ***Lum*** available in graphic novel format beginning in March, readers won't find just another reprinting of **Rumiko Takahashi**'s storyline awaiting them. Instead, the two-volume ***Lum*** graphic novel series will contain plenty of extras: extra stories (never before released in English), extra art (in the form of color inserts by Takahashi), and extra material by translator **Gerard Jones.**

Each volume of the ***Lum*** graphic novel series will be 200 pages long with a $14.95 cover price. The first volume should reach comic shops by the end of March; the second volume should follow in late May.

THE NAME OF THE ROSA

Don Rosa certainly needs no introduction to Duck fans; fans of **Carl Barks** have recognized that Rosa is perhaps the most talented writer/illustrator of Duck adventures such Barks himself. That's why Gladstone is devoting its final ***Disney Comic Album*** to "A Don Rosa Retrospective." This 80-page $9.95 graphic album will feature four stories by Rosa. Two Uncle Scrooge adventures--"Cash Flow" and "Last Sled to Dawson"--are included along with two ten-page Donald Duck short adventures. Look for ***Gladstone Graphic Album #28*** on March 15th.

NO FOOLIN'!

Are you ready for a hero who makes the Punisher look like a wimp? A hero who is ready to pass judgment on virtually everyone? A hero who has no qualms about killing anyone who doesn't measure up to his standards?

Then you're ready for The Foolkiller.

The Foolkiller has been around before; readers of ***Man-Thing*** might remember this **Steve Gerber** hero-villain. After a period of inactivity, Kurt Gerhardt, aka the Foolkiller, returns to action beginning in June. His creator, Steve Gerber, will be writing the eight-issue ***Foolkiller*** limited series; he will be joined by penciller **J.J. Birch.** So just what does ***Foolkiller*** do? Just what the name implies: he kills fools. By his definition, "fool" includes rapists, murderers, and other criminals. In the course of his career, though, "fool" will become a broader term that will encompass virtually everyone.

Marvel Comics stresses that this six-issue limited series has a definite finish, which will enable readers to follow the lead character to the very end. ***Foolkiller*** will be an offset-format monthly series; each issue will be priced at $1.50.

SILVER SURFER SOARS ON SHIRT

Marvel will add to its growing line of t-shirts and other clothing items with the release of a **Ron Lim**-illustrated ***Silver Surfer t-shirt*** in late March. This all-cotton shirt will feature a silkscreened design created especially for the shirt. Like all Marvel shirts, the Silver Surfer shirt will be available only in comic shops; you won't see it in any clothing stores or novelty stores, so let your local comic shop know that you can't live without it!

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NEWSBRIEFS

STARGRAZERS GETS GRAPHIC–NOVEL, THAT IS...

Fans of good-girl art won't want to miss Innovation's second ***Legends of the Stargrazers*** graphic novel. This 92-page full color volume will reprint the contents of ***Legends of the Stargrazers #4-6*** in a more durable perfect-bound format. In addition, the graphic novel will feature all-new artwork as well.

Legends of the Stargrazers Graphic Novel #2 is written by **Cynthy J. Wood** and **David Campiti** and illustrated by **Matt Thompson, Randy Elliott, Tom Yeates,** and **Chris Tsuda.** It's slated for early April release.

LAST OF THE VIKING TURTLES

When you think about it, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles should fit in pretty well with the Last of the Viking Heroes. After all, the Turtles' martial arts skills should help them to fit in during this brutal era; and of course, those shells would make pretty good armor.

Is all this just hypothetical conversation? Not quite! ***The Last of the Viking Heroes Summer Special #2,*** on sale in mid-March, will feature a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle in the Viking era in a story written and illustrated by **Michael Thibodeaux.**

This $2.50 full-color special is a must-have for all ***TMNT*** completists; if you want to be sure that you don't miss it, let your local comics shop know that you can't live without it--and tell 'em that ***CSN*** sent you.

ARMOR WARS II ENLISTS NEW CREATIVE TEAM

The Armor Wars were very popular with Iron Man fans; that's why ***Iron Man #256*** should be such a hit. That's the issue in which Armor Wars II begins. This ten-issue storyline will have an even bigger impact on Iron Man than the original Armor Wars did, according to Marvel. Iron Man will be fighting classic villains, his own stolen technology, and even himself. The story deals with the mystery of where the villains got Tony Stark's technology--and it will introduce a major new villain in the Iron Man mythos. There are some pretty grim forebodings in this series for Tony Stark as well: in ***Iron Man #256,*** his body begins to reject the bio-chip implant that allows him to walk, just as Blacklash returns to fight Iron Man! ***Iron Man #256,*** on sale March 29th, features the new creative team of **Bob Layton** (writer and inker) and **John Romita Jr.** (penciller). Their ten-part story will serve as a perfect complement for the ***Iron Man: Armor Wars*** trade paperback slated for April release from Marvel.

RALPH SNART HAS A CHANGE OF PLANS

Ralph Snart will be available in two different paperback editions in February, just as Now had originally planned and ***CSN*** originally reported to you. However, shortly after ***CSN*** reported the contents of those two paperbacks to you, Now made a few changes in the line-up.

The ***Ralph Snart Adventures*** trade paperback, a comic-sized full-color book, will still

contain ***Ralph Snart Adventures Volume 3 #1-7.*** However, the paperback-sized black-and-white ***Ralph Snart*** collection will include only ***Ralph Snart Adventures #1-5.*** The price on the color volume remains $14.95; the price on the black and white edition will be determined in the next few weeks.

HAPPY NGUYEN YEAR!

Billy Nguyen, the tough Vietnamese private detective who starred in a short-lived series from Attitude Zone, has found a new home. MU Press will be adding ***Billy Nguyen*** to its schedule beginning in March. MU describes ***Billy Nguyen*** as "the 'boogedyboogedy turbo-charged weird' adventures of Billy and his companions in an alternate universe where people are turning up 'black and white and dead all over.'" Each issue of ***Billy Nguyen*** will feature 32 full-color pages for $2.50.

BAGGE'S NEW BOOK IS ONE YOU'LL HATE TO MISS

Peter Bagge's ***Neat Stuff,*** one of the most quirky books of the 80's, developed quite a following--and was still growing in popularity when Bagge pulled the plug on the title last year. Just because ***Neat Stuff*** is gone, don't assume that Bagge is out of comics, though; he's back with a vengeance, in fact.

Hate, Peter Bagge's new comic from Fantagraphics, is set to debut in April; rather than featuring the exploits of the entire ***Neat Stuff*** gang, ***Hate*** will focus on Buddy Bradley--although there will be a number of surprising backups, according to Fantagraphics. The new title, set for bi-monthly release, will not be published in the magazine format of Neat Stuff; instead, it will be a 28-page comic book with full-color covers.

Hate will be filled with the offbeat, irreverent humor that made Neat Stuff a cult favorite; its new format and its focus on one continuing character should make Hate even more popular with fans who had trouble following the ensemble cast of ***Neat Stuff.*** Look for the first issue in late April; ***Hate*** will be priced at $2.

the TIME MACHINE
Based On The Novel
By H.G. Wells
Adapted by Bill Spangler
& John Ross
Beginning In April
From Eternity Comics
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THE FALL OF
ADAM STRANGE
A MAN OF TWO WORLDS IN DANGER OF LOSING BOTH... FOREVER.
BY RICHARD BRUNING & ANDY KUBERT, WITH ADAM KUBERT
A THREE ISSUE SERIES IN DC's PRESTIGE FORMAT. AVAILABLE IN JANUARY.

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CSN SPOTLIGHT

BATMAN™ by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg

GORDON! HOW DARE YOU LIGHT THAT SIGNAL AGAIN?
WE NEED HIM, DENT. WE CAN'T PRETEND THAT A MILLION DOLLARS JUST VANISHED!
AND THERE'S BEEN A MURDER.
AND WHAT IF HE KILLED THAT THUG?
RELAX, MR. D.A. IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT COMING.
YOU!
YOU'RE ALWAYS SURPRISED. I COME WHEN I'M CALLED.
1-29-90
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
THIS IS INTOLERABLE, GORDON, TO MEET WITH THIS... THIS...
THEN LET IT BE ON MY HEAD.
1-30-90
A MILLION DOLLARS IN WORN BILLS WAS HIJACKED TODAY, ON THE WAY TO THE MINT.
AND THE ROBBERS?
ONE'S DEAD. THE OTHER... WHO KNOWS?
SO?
THERE'S RUMORS OF A NEW FENCE ...VERY MYSTERIOUS.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
IT'S TRUE. THERE IS A MASTERMIND, FENCING ALL KINDS OF STOLEN GOODS, BUILDING A CRIMINAL EMPIRE, BUT...
AND YOU NEED ME TO STOP HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
I HAVE MY METHODS.
AND YOU WON'T USE THEM! I'M THE D.A. AND...
TAKE IT EASY, DENT. BATMAN, WHAT DO YOU THINK ...BATMAN??
1-31-90
I HATE IT WHEN HE DOES THIS.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
SO, SIR... WHAT DO WE KNOW?
THERE IS A NEW CRIMINAL OUT THERE, ALFRED. A MASTER FENCE, VERY WELL-CONNECTED... AND A MURDERER.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
AND YOU'LL DO... WHAT?
ATTACK HIS SUPPLIERS. PUT PRESSURE ON THE WEAK LINKS...
2-1-90
AND FLUSH HIM OUT.
AN EXCELLENT PLAN, SIR. YOU SHOULD BE DEAD BY TUESDAY.
IN ONE OF THE MANY SECRET PLACES IN GOTHAM...
THESE PAPERS ARE IMPORTANT, TWEED. THEY SHOULD BE WORTH A MINT!
BUT WE CAN'T BE CONNECTED TO THE THEFT.
THIS PLACE IS A MAZE.
WHAT HAVE WE GOTTEN INTO?
COME IN, GENTLEMEN. AWK! AWK! COME IN...
2-2-90
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
COME IN, GENTLEMEN. WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?
THESE PAPERS ...HIGH SECURITY ...VERY SECRET!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
THEY SHOULD BE WORTH MILLIONS TO ANY GOVERNMENT!
$100,000... TAKE IT OR FLY OFF!
2-3-90
B-BUT... THAT'S ONLY $50,000 APIECE! WE NEED MORE THAN THAT!
THEN STEAL MORE! AWK! AWK! AWK!
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by Cliff Biggers

Peter David is a rarity in the comics field: a writer who is a recognized "name." In a field dominated by artists, there are very few writers whose credit listing can help sell a comic--but Peter David is one of them. In addition to his ongoing work on ***The Incredible Hulk, Dreadstar,*** *and* ***Star Trek,*** *Peter David is the author of the seven-issue* ***Atlantis Chronicles*** *series that debuted in early February from DC.*

As Peter tells ***CSN,*** *however, his job isn't exactly that of author; instead, he is a co-writer of sorts with Professor R.K. Simpson, who supplied Peter with the translations of the Atlantean volumes of history that helped bring* ***Atlantis Chronicles*** *about. But why not let Peter tell you himself?...*

The most important thing about ***Atlantis Chronicles*** is that it's all *true,* which we're very excited about. As we explain to the readers in the very first issue, it's based on the findings of one Dr. R.K. Simpson, who discovered actual books of Atlantean history. He brought them to DC because all the other publishers thought that he was kidding. We happily found out that these volumes happened to coincide with DC history, which meant that the DC depiction of Atlantis was the accurate one--which we all knew, of course, but it helped prove for once and for all that *Atlantis Attacks!* was a work of fiction.

Atlantis Chronicles is something that's never before been done; from what's been told so far, I'm afraid that many readers think it's going to be like ***History of the DC Universe,*** which it most assuredly is *not.* There's nothing wrong with ***History of the DC Universe,*** mind you, but it wasn't what I would call gripping storytelling. ***Atlantis Chronicles*** is first and foremost a story about people, generations of people; there has never been a comic to the best of my knowledge that is a generational saga the way ***Atlantis Chronicles*** is. In the first five issues we cover three generations, starting off with two brothers, Orin & Shalako, and their children and grandchildren; the sinking of Atlantis; and the transformation of the Poseidonians into waterbreathers and the Tritonians into mer-people. In the earlier review in ***CSN,*** you said that you thought it was kind of limited; if it was just another history, that'd be right, but it is much more than that. As it turns out, everything that we knew about the Atlantean universe ends with the second issue.

In ***Atlantis Chronicles 3, 4, & 5,*** we cover the increasing hostility between the two-legged people and the mer-people; the civil war that breaks out; and how the brothers and their descendants are pitted against each other. and then, midway through the fifth issue, we wrap the storyline that began with the first issue, and midway through ***Atlantis Chronicles #5,*** we complete the storyline and skip forward a whole bunch of centuries to the ancestors of the characters we covered in the first five issues. What we've basically done is to tie it in

CSN SPOTLIGHT

AN INTERVIEW WITH PETER DAVID

very thoroughly and very nicely--because it is, I remind you, all true--with all the historical aspects of Atlantis.

Most people don't realize that the first real knowledge of Atlantis we have comes from the writings of Plato, in which he discusses an attack by Atlantis on the surface world. At that time, they were known as the North Sea People; we cover that that attack, and we considered calling it *Atlantis Attacks!*, but decided to refrain. We deal with the fact that the real Atlanteans beat Sub-Mariner to the punch by a number of centuries; that storyline begins with issue 5 and wraps in issue 7. Issue #7 also features Christopher Columbus, by the way.

Then we jump to more modern times with the birth of Aquaman, also in ***Atlantis Chronicles #7***; Aquaman's origin has been kind of shaken up as a result of the ***Aquaman Special Edition***. A number of people have pointed out that the ***Aquaman Special Edition*** raised more questions than it answered. ***Atlantis Chronicles*** tries to answer those questions; it explains why people with blond hair are loathed in Atlantis, who Aquaman's father is, and some purpose for Aquaman in life and a hint as to what his destiny is. ***Atlantis Chronicles*** is primarily devoted to covering the time that people don't know about.

YOU'D THINK A MAN WITH ALMOST A DOZEN WIVES TO TEND TO HIM WOULD NEVER BE IN A BAD MOOD.
YOU'D THINK THAT, WOULDN'T YOU.
WELL! LOOK WHO GOT BORED EXPLORING THE PALACE!

I want to stress again that ***Atlantis Chronicles*** is not anything like a routine history--and that's why it's frustrating to see people mistakenly assume that's what it will be. I've made no effort to go through every appearance of Atlantis in the DC universe to fit them all together; someone wanted to know if I'd tied in the Legion of Super-Heroes or Clark Kent because they once appeared in an Atlantean story--I don't care that they were there. Those are just works of fiction--I have the real thing here! I wanted to tell a very exciting story dealing with the material that Professor Simpson gave me.

It gave me another tremendous opportunity that has never been done to my knowledge in any historical novel; every issue of ***Atlantis Chronicles*** is told from a different point of view. Much of how we view history is shaped through the eyes of the historian who was there. The ***Atlantis Chronicles*** was kept by actual Atlantean historians, but their opinions vary, and that colors the interpretation of what happens, depending upon the points of view of those historians..

The two brothers who start of the series, Orin & Shalako, are very different: Orin is the ruler of Atlantis, while Shalako is the religious leader. The first issue is told from the point of view of a follower

CREATED BY BOB KANE
BATMAN
by Loebs, Cinfa & Nyberg
GOTHAM JEWELRY
DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER
SEE, I TOL' YOU GUYS GETTIN' IN HERE WOULD BE A BREEZE.
GEE, AIN'T THEY PRITTY?
YES THEY ARE. WHY DON'T YOU PUT THEM BACK NOW?
THE BATMAN!
NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE MAN WHO'S SUPPOSED TO FENCE THESE JEWELS.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
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CSN SPOTLIGHT

of Shalako, so he appears very noble and his brother appears to be less admirable. The second issue is told from a historian on Orin's side; so Orin comes across as the hero and his brother as the basest of villains as different motivations are ascribed to their actions.

The third issue's historian was a teenage girl, so it's very gossipy; it gets down and dirty with a strong look at the sexual shenanigans going on. ***Atlantis Chronicles #4*** is told from the point of view of the son of the gossipy teenager who narrated the third issue, but he's a very melancholy and depressed type, not to mention that he's going through a difficult affair at the time--and all of this colors is view of events.

Atlantis Chronicles #7 is told from the point of view of Aquaman's mother. We've seen Aquaman's mother, but our exposure to her has been very limited; I don't even think she's said anything prior to this. She didn't talk much, she just sat there staring out at the ocean in the earlier origin; in the redone origin, no one ever talks to her at all--we only see her on the other side of a prison wall. We don't even know her name, do we? Well, we do now; we give her character and show what was going on.

So Atlantis Chronicles focuses on characters far more than on continuity, right?

That's absolutely right; this isn't just a cut-and-dried continuity wrap-up. It's a sweeping historical epic told on a grand tapestry, if you want something that sounds like a back cover of a paperback novel.

I understand that significant segments of the Atlantis Chronicles are rather sketchy in this history; why is this?

Unfortunately, Professor Simpson didn't find all the volumes. We aren't quite

sure how he acquired them; he won't go into specifics, but we think there were shady means involved. Professor Simpson has rather graciously consented to write articles that are appearing in ***Atlantis Chronicles*** that will expand on the background of Atlantean history, both previously known and unknown. When we have a major jump, like in ***Atlantis Chronicles 5***, Professor Simpson will write an article detailing as best as he can what happened in between the issues, based on references that were made from the ***Atlantis Chronicles.*** Obviously, I couldn't get everything into the issues; we had to pick and choose. We chose not to burden the narrative with lots of references to characters that we didn't have the actual volumes for, but the articles fill in the gaps.

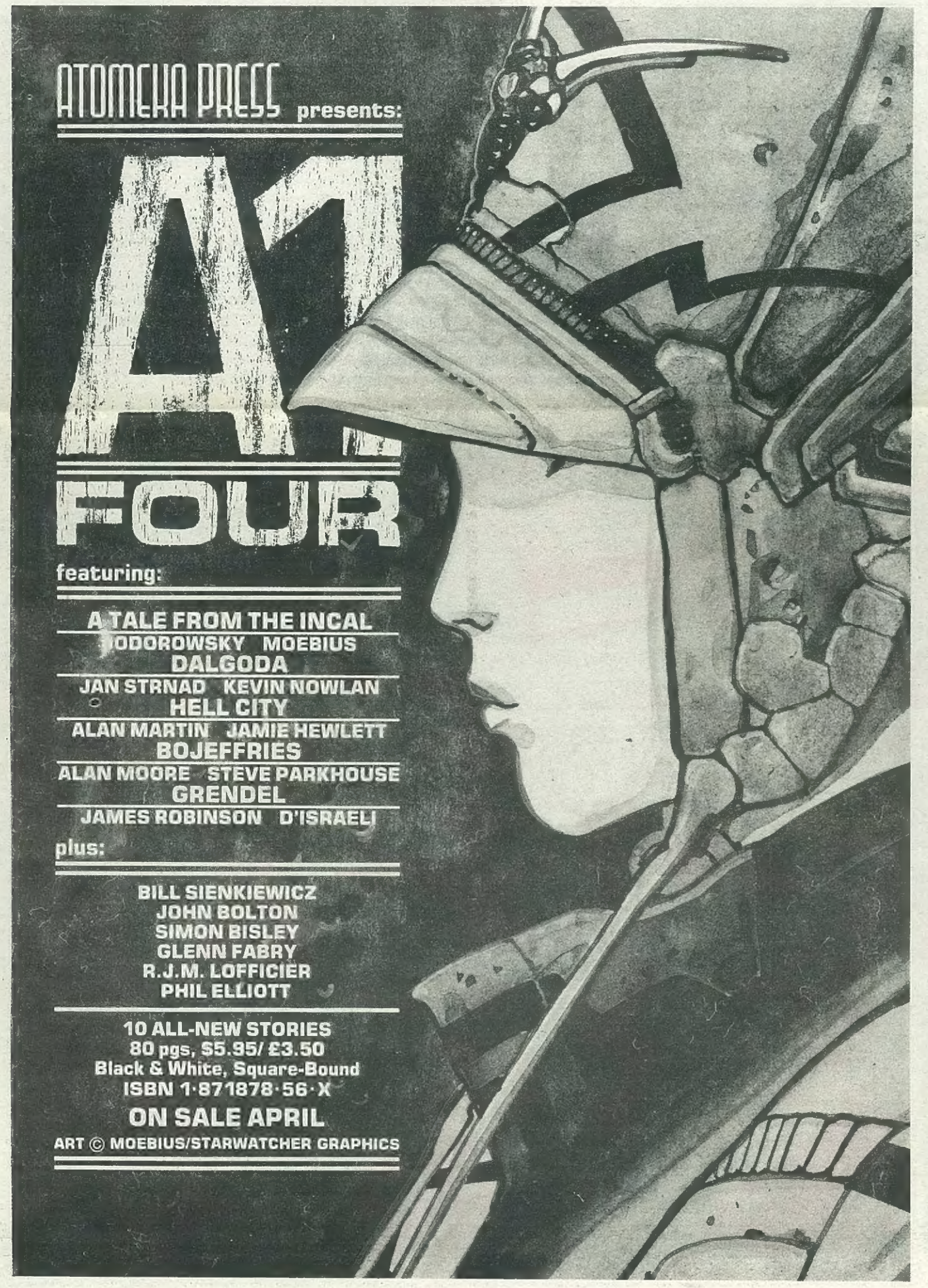
Will readers ever have a chance to see the remainder of the history?

If the series is tremendously successful--which we hope it will be--Professor Simpson is out of the country searching for additional volumes, and he may be able to find some more. If reader response is positive enough, Professor Simpson will send them in, I will transform them into comics, and DC will publish them. He found one manuscript that we are very excited about; it was found too late to fit in ***Atlantis Chronicles***, though. We didn't know about it in time--it's "The Little Mermaid: The Real Story." Unfortunately, there is no singing crab in this true story; the story that Hans Christian Anderson told, although entertaining, isn't what really happened. If we get a chance, we'll tell it.

Now this won't see print unless all the readers buy lots of copies and we have to collect it into a trade paperback, where we will include it as a bonus. But it's a very interesting story that corrects a number of misconceptions.

You worked with Esteban Maroto on Atlantis Chronicles; was it more difficult to work with an artist thousands of miles away?

Esteban Maroto's work has been stupendous. on the series. It was an inter-



ON PETER DAVID

esting experience to work with him; it wasn't difficult for me, since I didn't work with him directly, but it led to some interesting interpretations at times. I wrote each ***Atlantis Chronicles*** full script, writing page and panel descriptions of each panel along with dialogue. It reads like a movie script. This work was very massive, with each script being around 50 pages of single-spaced type. It's longer than any of my novels, in fact; if I had written this in standard novel format, this would be more than 500 pages of manuscript.

Once my script was finished, went to Spain, where Esteban's daughter translated it into Spanish; Esteban then drew it. Occasionally, there were little breakdowns in communication. For example, in the very first issue, I'm describing this giant meteoroid that is approaching earth to destroy Atlantis. I make a reference to "the face of the meteoroid," meaning the front of it. Esteban's daughter translated it as "face," so when Esteban sent us the art, there was a death's head skull face on the front of the meteoroid--which would certainly scare *me* if it fell out of the sky!

In ***Atlantis Chronicles #3***, we ran into a slight problem that really aggravated Professor Simpson; It was a scene that involved the Atlantean Bazil and his drinking buddies. Two of the drinking buddies had names ending in the letter **a**; I was unaware that in Spanish, names ending in **a** are female names. As a result, we got back the pages and found that two of the three drinking buddies had undergone artistic sex-changes from what I had envisioned. Professor Simpson was a little honked off; we pointed out to him, however, that we *assumed* that they were male because of our chauvinism, just because they all fought in the Atlantean wars. We assumed that if they fought and were soldiers, they must be male. There were no internal clues in the ***Atlantis Chronicles*** that said that they *had* to be male, though, so Esteban's interpretation might actually be correct. Sometimes it's tricky here; Professor Simpson allowed that Atlantean pronouns can be deceptive at times, and sloppy handwriting can obscure it further.

Speaking of handwriting, just how did these volumes get written underwater to begin with?

There is a description in ***Atlantis Chronicles*** #3 or 4 explaining how they dealt with the concept of writing underwater. The paper was pressure sensitive; when you run a pen over it, it creates an image. The pen doesn't have ink. The pen simply leaves a trail; this is pretty clever on the part of the Atlanteans, isn't it?

Are there possible follow-ups the Atlantis Chronicles?

There are all kinds of possibilities for new series if this does well; people were constantly talking about the possibilities that ***Watchmen*** opened up for new series, and I think that ***Atlantis Chronicles*** opens up even more. There are gaps in the history, spin-off possibilities, etc. Will we see those spin-offs? It's possible--but we'll have to see just how strong the response to ***Atlantis Chronicles*** is first. Professor Simpson doesn't work cheap, you know...

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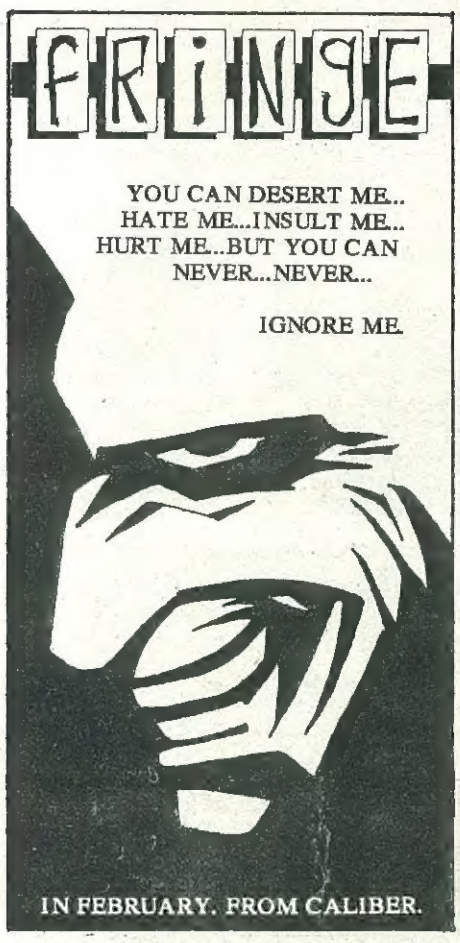

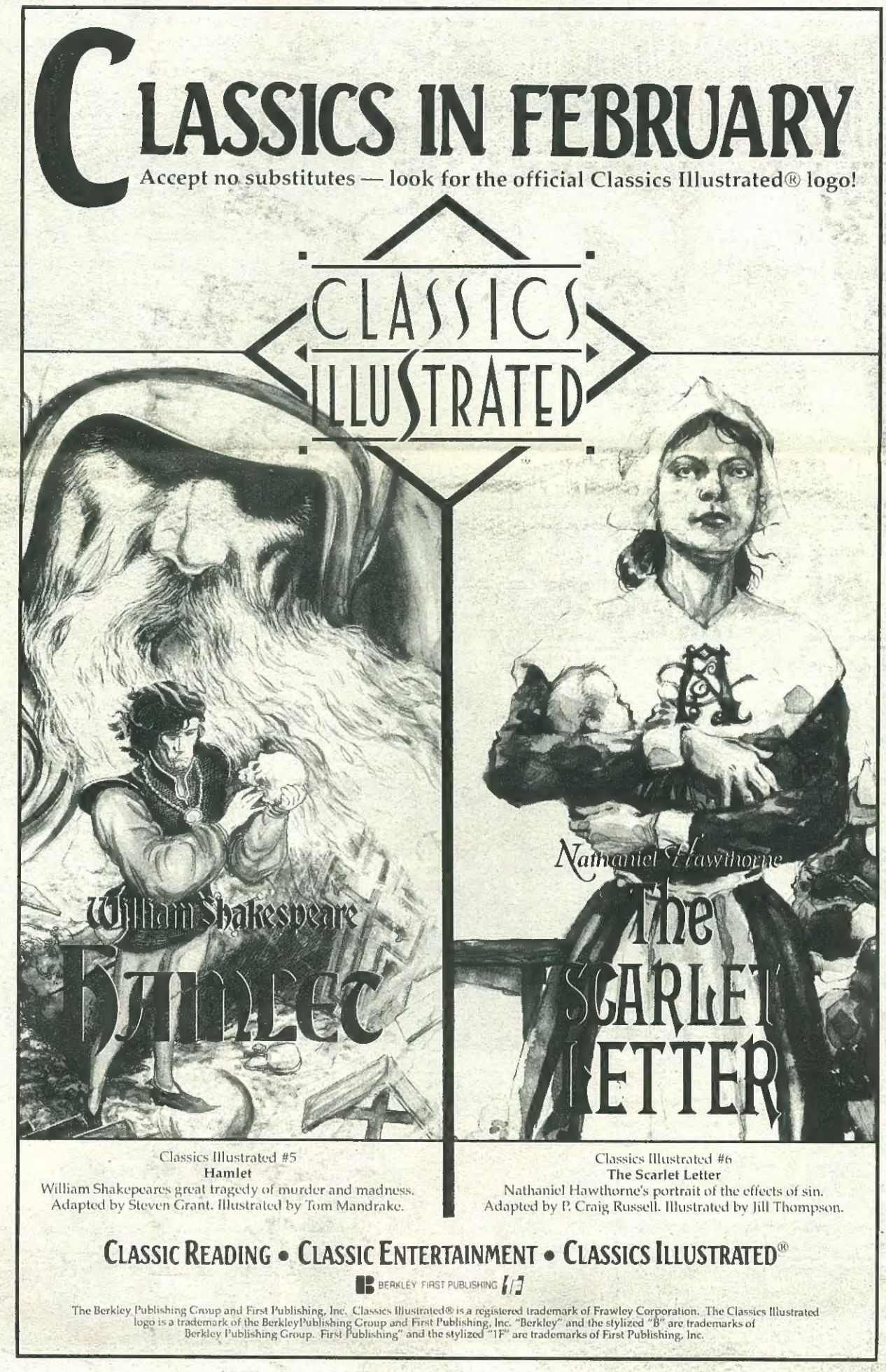
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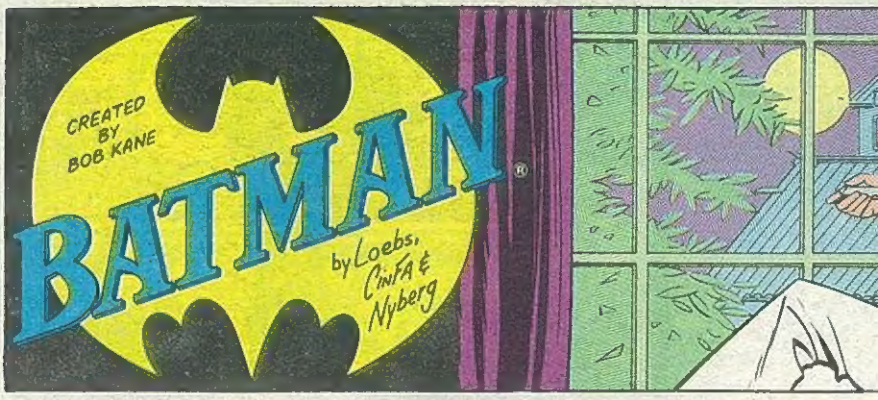
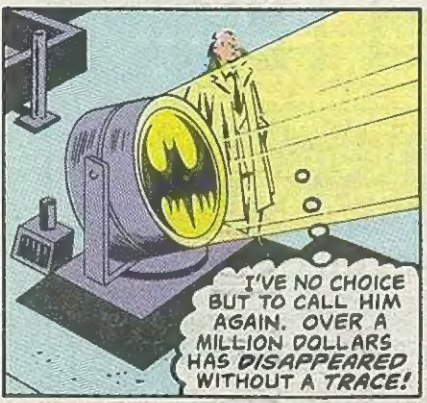
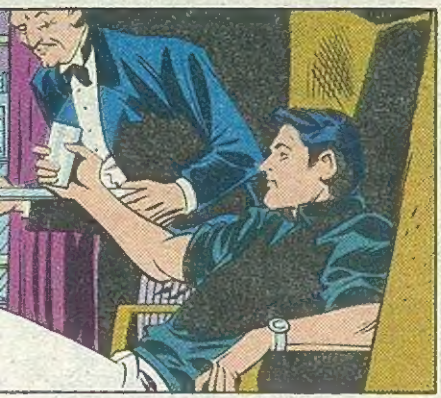

CREATED BY BOB KANE
BATMAN
by Loebs, Cinfa & Nyberg

OH, THAT WAS ME, SIR. I WAS EXPECTING THAT YOU'D FIND AN EXCUSE TO GO OUT TONIGHT AND GET YOURSELF SHOT!


I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO CALL HIM AGAIN. OVER A MILLION DOLLARS HAS DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE!

I HAVE SO FEW MEN... AND YET... HOW STABLE IS HE REALLY?
COMMISSIONER ...?



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